[NAME OF ORCHESTRA]

in collaboration with

Enchantment Theatre Company

presents

***Mother Goose***

Based on the Ballet ***Ma Mere L’Oye*** by Maurice Ravel

***Production Created By***

Jennifer Blatchley Smith, Leslie Reidel, and Landis Smith

***Director***

Leslie Reidel

***Associate Director***

Bradley K. Wrenn

***Choreographer***

Jamie L. McKittrick

***Production Designer***

C. David Russell

***Lighting Designer***

David O’Connor

***Technical Director***

Andrew Cowles

***The Ensemble***

**Shannon Rose Richardson** *Young Mother Goose, Sleeping Beauty, Beauty, Tom Thumb’s Mother, Princess of the Pagodas*

**Adrian Plascencia** *Puppeteer*, *Young Husband, The Beast, Tom Thumb, Soldier, Servant, The Serpent Statue*

**Jennifer Blatchley Smith** *Mother Goose*

**Landis Smith** *Puppeteer, Priest, Doctor, Nanny, Flower Merchant, Tax Collector, Soldier, Sorcerer-Suitor*

- *This performance is dedicated to Molly Reidel and the Bravo Family* -

**About this performance of *Mother Goose***

In Enchantment’s production, a woman who you might call “Mother Goose” recalls her life. She blends her own personal history with the fairy tales used in Ravel’s sophisticated and extraordinary music. In doing so, she envisions her younger self as the heroine of each of these tales, experiencing love and loss as we all do in our own lives. This is a *contemporary* Mother Goose who finds peace and redemption through the stories that she spins. Ravel’s music provides the path for her journey. Music, like theater, has the power to illuminate and transform. For a theater company whose work is primarily movement-based, music supports and enriches our storytelling and becomes another voice woven into the narrative. Our collaborations with symphony orchestras bring together the magic of great music and great stories. The orchestra will evoke *Mother Goose* musically as we evoke it dramatically, using masks, puppets, and movement. We hope that our combined efforts will move the audience to discover this classic tale in a new and meaningful way.

-*Leslie Reidel, Resident Director*

**About Enchantment Theatre Company**

Enchantment Theatre Company thrills audiences with its innovative and visually dramatic family theater productions. The company was founded in 1979 by Jennifer Blatchley Smith and Landis Smith, both actors and playwrights, and expanded to an artistic partnership with Resident Director Leslie Reidel in 1995. Enchantment Theatre Company’s distinctive artistry combines masked actors, puppets, magic, music, and more. Their original and inspiring productions have served more than a million children and families across America and around the world including performances at the Brooklyn Academy of Music and Lincoln Center in New York City; the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.; the Academy of Music and the Kimmel Center with the Philadelphia Orchestra in their home town of Philadelphia; and in the Far East, performing in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore. The company has appeared with major orchestras nationwide, including those of Atlanta, Baltimore, Cleveland, Houston, Minnesota, and Seattle, and with the Boston Pops on the PBS “Christmas at the Pops” television special. Other Enchantment symphonic concert productions include *The Firebird, Scheherazade, Cinderella,* and *The Merry Pranks of Till Eulenspiegel.*

**Cast & Staff Biographies**

**Shannon Rose Richardson** **(Ensemble)** hails from the small town of Red Hook in New York’s Hudson Valley. She has been working with Enchantment Theatre Company since her graduation from Muhlenberg College in 2009. Shannon holds a B.A. in Theatre for Acting and Directing, and a B.A. in Music for Vocal Performance. She received conservatory training in commedia dell'arte and physical theatre from the Accademia dell'Arte in Arezzo, Italy. Upon graduation, Shannon joined Enchantment in the creation and two National Tours of *The Adventures of Harold and the Purple Crayon*. She continues to perform with Enchantment and serves as an advisor for its Educational Residency programs in Philadelphia area schools.

**Adrian Plascencia** **(Ensemble)** a native of California’s Bay Area, made the move to the east coast to pursue an education in dance. He attended The University of the Arts in Philadelphia where he received a degree in Modern Dance performance. Adrian was awarded a scholarship to attend the Martha Graham School for Contemporary Dance.  Adrian regularly performs with local Philadelphia choreographers including Brian Sanders, Curt Haworth, Zane Booker, Anna Rubio, Jillian Harris, Leanne Grieger, Jaamil Kosoko, and Manfred Fischbeck, among others. He is a member of SHARP Dance, with which he had the opportunity to travel to Europe. Adrian teaches dance throughout the Philadelphia area and also serves as a key teaching artist for Enchantment’s Philadelphia in-school residency programs.

**Leslie Reidel** **(Artistic Director-Resident Director)** has dedicated the last 25 years of his professional life to both the preservation of classical theatre and the development of young audiences and has directed all of Enchantment Theatre Company’s productions. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Muhlenberg College and a Masters of Fine Arts from Temple University. He served as a member of the MFA faculty at Temple University and was a founding member of the Professional Theatre Training Program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the University of Delaware. His most recent creations with Enchantment Theatre Company include *Aladdin and Other Enchanting Tales, Ravel’s Mother Goose* and *Peter Rabbit Tales.*  Leslie is Professor of Theatre at the University of Delaware and a director at the professional REP company on the campus where his work includes Pinter’s *The Homecoming*, Hellman’s *The Little Foxes,* McPherson’s *The Weir* and Shakespeare’s *Macbeth.* He recently directed a critically acclaimed production of Shakespeare’s *Merchant of Venice* at the Texas Shakespeare Festival. Leslie is also a frequent guest lecturer on “Acting Shakespeare” at theatre training programs across the country, and is a member of The International Shakespeare Conference located in Stratford-upon-Avon.

**Jennifer Blatchley Smith** **(Ensemble, Artistic Director-Literary & Education)** studied writing and theater at Bennington College. For the last 36 years, Jennifer has co-created and performed in 20 original productions that have been presented across the United States and abroad. As a founding member of Enchantment Theatre Company, Jennifer has created roles as diverse as the Broom in *The Sorcerer’s Apprentice* to Beauty in *Beauty and the Beast*. She has performed in Enchantment productions at Lincoln Center and the Brooklyn Academy of Music in New York; the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.; and the Annenberg Center, the Kimmel Center, and the Academy of Music in Philadelphia, and she has traveled to Asia six times with Enchantment. Her most recent roles have been as an ensemble player in Enchantment’s *The Firebird*, *Scheherazade* and *Mother Goose* that premiered with The Atlanta Symphony in 2013. Her recent Enchantment creations have been *The Velveteen Rabbit*, *The Adventures of Harold and the Purple Crayon*, *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble*, *Aladdin and Other Enchanting Tales* and *Peter Rabbit Tales* that premiered in October 2015 and toured nationally for two seasons.

**Landis Smith** **(Ensemble, Artistic Director-Production)** studied theater at Carnegie-Mellon University and Webster University Conservatory in St. Louis. His love of theater, music, and the art of illusion led to the founding of Enchantment Theatre Company in 1979. As a founder and performer with Enchantment, Landis has created, produced, and performed in productions across America. In 1985, Enchantment collaborated with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra to premiere *The Symphony and the Sorcerer*, the first of a series of programs introducing young people to the magic of symphonic music. Since then, Landis has appeared with major orchestras across North America, including the premiere of Enchantment’s theatrical adaptation of Rimsky-Korsakov’s *Scheherazade* with The Cleveland Orchestra in 2008 and the premiere of *Mother Goose* with the Atlanta Symphony in 2013. He has also performed in Enchantment symphonic productions of *The Firebird*, *Cinderella*, and *The Sorcerer’s Apprentic*e. He has toured in the Far East six times with Enchantment, performing in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore.

**C. David Russell (Resident Production Designer)** pursues a varied career including costume and scenic design, costume and property crafts, event design, project management and teaching. He is currently Assistant Professor of Scenic Design, and Head of the Production Design and Technology Program at Ohio University Theater Division. He formerly served as Head of the Costume Crafts Technology Program and instructor of Costume Design. David is the resident designer for Enchantment Theatre Company based in Philadelphia. He has done numerous Scenic and Costume Designs for the Resident Ensemble Players in Delaware. He has also designed costumes for The Shakespeare Theater of New Jersey, The Pittsburgh Public Theater and Theater Works in Hartford Connecticut. Event design and project management for LIV Design and Design ETC in New York City for the International Toy Fair.

In addition to his design work, Prof. Russell was on staff in the prop shop at The Santa Fe Opera for 18 years where he has served as the Master Craftsperson (2009-2011). David received his **BFA** *Ohio University* *School of Theater* **MFA** from *New York University TISCH* *School for the Arts.* Website: ***cdavidrusselldesign.com*** Email:***russeld1@ohio.edu***

**Jamie L. McKittrick (Choreographer)** Notable original works include, **Sparkle- TA DAAA!!!** (Critic’s Choice Award winner St. Louis Fringe), **SURIVE!** with Swim Pony Performance Arts (“Best of the Year”- Philadelphia Weekly), and **Lady M** with Swim Pony for FringeArts. With Enchantment she’s performed in the National Tours of *Cinderella* and *The Velveteen Rabbit,* in Philadelphia *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble,* and in the symphony concert productions of *Scheherazade* and *Cinderella*. She’s choreographed productions of *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble, Lady M,* *SURVIVE!; Purr, Pull, Reign; Romeo and Juliet,*  *Measure for Measure, and Seussical the Musical.* She has an MFA from Naropa University and has taught acting at Muhlenberg College and University of Missouri St. Louis. She’s currently the visiting Professor of Movement for Webster University’s Conservatory of Theatre.

**Bradley K. Wrenn (Associate Director)** is a performer, writer, and creator whose work focuses on alternative comedy, spectacle, physical humor, and puppetry. With The Berserker Residents, he has created, written, and performed in 5 original shows including two commissions: *A Very Merry Xmas Carol Holiday Adventure Show* (which was published by Playscripts Inc.) at Philadelphia based Theater Horizon and *The Lapsburgh Layover* at New York based Ars Nova. In addition to his own original work Brad has performed locally with numerous theater companies including: Mum Puppettheatre, Enchantment Theatre Company, Theatre Horizon, Commonwealth Classic Theatre Co, and Lantern Theater Company.

**David O’Connor** **(Lighting Designer)** is a Philadelphia director, designer, and teacher. He has directed or designed at Arden Theatre Co., Hedgerow, Act II Playhouse, and Delaware Theatre Company, among others. He was nominated for Barrymore Awards for his lighting design of *Skylight* and his direction of *Master Harold…and the boys*, both at Lantern Theater Company. David is Resident Director for Philadelphia Young Playwrights, an adjunct at Temple University and University of Pennsylvania, and a master teaching artist at Philadelphia Theatre Company.

**Andrew Cowles (Technical Director)** has worked with Enchantment Theatre Company since 2005 starting when he served as the technical director for their touring production of *Cinderella*. He has designed over 200 productions around the Greater Philadelphia Area for such companies as Enchantment Theatre Company, Simpatico Theater Project, Theatre Horizon, Idiopathic Ridiculopathy Company, Curio Theatre Company, Center City Opera Theater, South Camden Theatre Company, Cabaret Red Light, Rutgers University, Arcadia University and Penn State University. Andrew received a Philadelphia Barrymore Nomination for his design for *The Brothers Size* with Simpatico Theatre Project. Andrew holds a Bachelors of Arts from Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland.